

Application No. 10/727,488

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action mailed on February 14, 2006. This response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claim 9 stands objected due to an informality. Claim 9 has been appropriately amended.

Claims 1-3, 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hsu et al.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bahry et al.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu et al or Bahry et al in view of Waugh et al.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bahry et al in view of Reed.

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 10, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nash in view of Miyabayashi et al or Krugener et al.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nash in view of Miyabayashi et al or Krugener et al. as applied to claim 4 above and further in view of Langkamp.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nash in view of Miyabayashi et al or Krugener et al. as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Waugh et al.

Hsu et al. teaches two locking elements 20 and 22 perpendicular to one another that are both thrown by the cylinder lock 26. The travel of both locking elements is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the cylinder lock. Both locking elements are thrown simultaneously by the same direction rotation of the cylinder lock tumbler.

Likewise, Bahry et al. teaches two locking elements 13 perpendicular to one another that are both thrown by the cylinder lock 1. The travel of both locking elements is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the cylinder lock. Both locking elements are thrown simultaneously by the same direction rotation of the cylinder lock tumbler.

Nash teaches two locking elements, latch L and deadbolt B perpendicular to one another that are both thrown by the cylinder lock K. The travel of latch L is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the cylinder lock K. The travel of deadbolt B is *parallel but not*

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collinear to the longitudinal axis of the cylinder lock K. In Nash, the locking elements are not thrown simultaneously by the same direction rotation of the cylinder lock tumbler. Instead, as described in lines 58-95 on page 1 of the Nash description, turning the cylinder lock tumbler to the left advances the deadbolt in a screw-like fashion to the locked position and this rotation to the left does nothing to move latch L. Turning the cylinder lock tumbler to the right retracts the deadbolt in a screw-like fashion to the unlocked position and again this rotation to the right does nothing to move latch L. Latch L is retracted by a further partial rotation to the right which does not move the deadbolt B. Thus, latch L and deadbolt B move independently of each other.

In contrast, in the present invention, rotation of the tumbler and the coupling member moves the first locking element in a translatory movement along a first axis which is the rotational axis of the tumbler and simultaneously moves the second locking element in a translatory movement along a second axis angled at a non-zero angle with respect to the first axis. The first axis is not parallel to the rotational axis of the tumbler as in Nash and it is not perpendicular thereto as in Hsu et al and Bahry et al.

In light of the above amendment, the rejections of claim 1 are respectfully deemed overcome, and thus claims 1 and claims 2-10, 13 and 14, which all ultimately depend from claim 1, are deemed allowable. Claims 17 and 18 have been added as specific claims directed to locking a vehicle (as opposed to the other claims being general and not necessarily for a vehicle), and are also deemed allowable for the same reasons as above.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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